

CLAIMS

1. A method of enabling a user to set a value for a plurality of network objects on a communications network, the method comprising acts of:
  - 5 (A) providing a user interface that enables the user to indicate a first value for which to set the plurality of network objects by specifying the first value only once; and
  - (B) in response to receiving an instruction from the user, initiating setting a value of each of the plurality of network objects equal to the first value.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein a first network object of the plurality of network objects resides on a first network device and a second network object of the plurality of network objects resides on a second network device,
  - wherein act (B) comprises initiating a transmission of a first message, destined for the first network device, configured to set a value of the first network object to the first value, and
  - 15 initiating a transmission of a second message, destined for the second network device, configured to set a value of the second network object to the first value.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the user interface includes a graphical user interface.
- 20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein act (A) comprising acts of:
  - (1) concurrently displaying values of network objects on a display, including values of the plurality of network objects, to the user;
  - (2) receiving one or more user inputs, the one or more user inputs specifying the plurality of network objects; and
  - 25 (3) receiving a value from the user for the plurality of network objects.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein:
  - act (A)(1) includes displaying a first table to a user on the display, the first table including a plurality of rows and at least a first column representing a first object type of the plurality of network objects, each of plurality of the rows including a cell for the first column
  - 30 that stores a value for one of the plurality of network objects;

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act (A) further comprises an act of: (4) displaying a second table to the user on the display concurrently to displaying the first table, the second table including one or more columns, each column of the second table corresponding to a respective one of the columns of the first table; and

5        act (A)(3) includes receiving the value from the user for a column of the second table that corresponds to the first column of the first table.

6.        The method of claim 5, wherein:

10        act (A)(2) includes receiving the one or more user inputs that specify the plurality of rows of the first table; and

act (A) further comprises an act of: (5) in response to receiving the value from the user, for each of the plurality of rows, setting the cell for the first column equal to the received value.

7.        The method of claim 5, wherein the first object type has a first data type, and act (A)  
15        further comprises acts of:

(5)        determining an editing control appropriate for the first data type; and

(6)        providing the editing control on the display to enable the user to enter the value for the specified column.

20        8.        The method of claim 5, wherein the second table includes only a single row.

9.        The method of claim 5, wherein act (A) further comprises:

(5)        displaying a scroll bar on the display, the scroll bar shared by the first table and the second table.

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10.        The method of claim 9, wherein act (A)(4) includes:

displaying the second table at a position on the display such that each column of the second table is vertically aligned on the display with its corresponding column of the first table.

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11. The method of claim 5, wherein act (A)(4) includes:  
displaying the second table at a position on the display such that each column of the  
second table is vertically aligned on the display with its corresponding column of the first table.
- 5 12. A system for enabling a user to set a value for a plurality of network objects on a  
communications network, the system comprising:  
a user interface to enable the user to indicate a first value for which to set the plurality  
of network objects by specifying the first value only once; and  
a message component to initiate setting a value of each of the plurality of network  
10 objects equal to the first value.
13. The system of claim 12, wherein a first network object of the plurality of network  
objects resides on a first network device and a second network object of the plurality of  
network objects resides on a second network device,  
15 wherein the message component is operable to initiate a transmission of a first message,  
destined for the first network device, configured to set a value of the first network object to the  
first value, and to initiate a transmission of a second message, destined for the second network  
device, configured to set a value of the second network object to the first value.
- 20 14. The system of claim 12, wherein the user interface includes a graphical user interface.
15. The system of claim 12, wherein the user interface is operable to:  
control concurrently displaying values of network objects, including values of the  
plurality of network objects, to the user;  
25 receive one or more user inputs, the one or more user inputs specifying the plurality of  
network objects; and  
receive a value from the user for the plurality of network objects.
16. The system of claim 15, wherein:  
30 the user interface includes a first table component to control displaying a first table to a

user on a display, the first table including a plurality of rows and at least a first column representing a first object type of the plurality of network objects, each of plurality of the rows including a cell for the first column that stores a value for one of the plurality of network objects; and

5           a second table component to control displaying a second table to the user on the display concurrently to displaying the first table, the second table including one or more columns, each column of the second table corresponding to a respective one of the columns of the first table, and operable to receive the value from the user for a column of the second table that corresponds to the first column of the first table.

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17.     The system of claim 16, wherein the first table component is operable to receive the one or more user inputs that specify the plurality of rows of the first table, and

          wherein the second table component is operable, in response to receiving the value from the user, to control the first table component to set the cell in the first column in each of  
15     the plurality of rows equal to the received value.

18.     The system of claim 16, wherein the first object type has a first data type, and  
          wherein the second table component is operable to determine an editing control appropriate for the first data type and to provide the editing control on the display to enable the  
20     user to enter the value for the specified column.

19.     The system of claim 16, wherein the second table includes only a single row.

20.     The system of claim 16, wherein the user interface further comprises:  
25           a scroll bar component to control displaying a scroll bar to the user, the scroll bar shared by the first table and the second table.

21.     The system of claim 20, wherein the second table component is operable to control displaying the second table to the user at a position on the display such that each column of the

second table is vertically aligned on the display with its corresponding column of the first table.

22. The system of claim 16, wherein act (A)(4) includes:

5 displaying the second table at a position on the display such that each column of the  
second table is vertically aligned on the display with its corresponding column of the first table.

23. A computer-readable medium having computer-readable signals stored thereon that  
define instructions that, as a result of being executed by a computer, instruct the computer to  
perform a method of enabling a user to set a value for a plurality of network objects on a  
10 communications network, the method comprising acts of:

(A) providing a user interface that enables the user to indicate a first value for which to  
set the plurality of network objects by specifying the first value only once; and

(B) in response to receiving an instruction from the user, initiating setting a value of  
each of the plurality of network objects equal to the first value.

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24. A system for enabling a user to set a value for a plurality of network objects on a  
communications network, the system comprising:

means for enabling the user to indicate a first value for which to set the plurality of  
network objects by specifying the first value only once; and

20 a message component to initiate setting a value of each of the plurality of network  
objects equal to the first value.